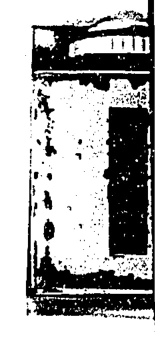
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INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 21 - 31 MAY 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet newspapers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in seven union republics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following: crops, mechanization, fertilization, land improvement, rural electrification, labor, and organization.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

Sowing of oil-bearing crops has been successfully completed in kolkhozes of the USSR and the plans for sowing sunflowers and seed flax have been exceeded.

Measures are being taken by kolkhozes and MTS to increase yields from oleaginous crops. Areas devoted to sesame and peanuts, oil-bearing plants widely used in the confectionery industry, are being expanded.(1)

MTS of the USSR are scheduled to harvest more than three times as much hay and to store almost six times as much ensilage as in 1950.(2)

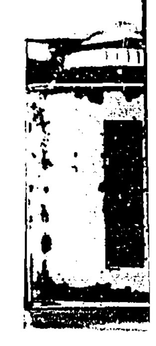
Karelo-Finnish SSR

By 27 May, kolkhozes of the republic had fulfilled the plan for sowing spring crops 100.2 percent. For the first time, granulated superphosphate was applied on a large scale. The areas sown by the close-row and crisscross methods were increased by 1.5 to two times.(3)

Wide-scale planting of potatoes and vegetables was underway in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic a week earlier than in 1952. The total area of potatoes planted by the checkrow method was five times that of 1952.(4)

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Latvian SSR

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic fulfilled the plan for sowing wheat 107.4 percent, and the plan for sowing sugar beets 100.4 percent. Kolkhozes are now planting potatoes and vegetables.(5)

Potatoes and root fodder crops are being planted by kolkhozes of the republic; by 25 May, the area planted to potatoes was almost double the amount planted by the same date in 1952.(6)

Ukrainian SSR

Early summer fallow was harrowed rapidly and on a considerably greater scale than in 1952 in Khersonskaya Oblast.

Over 2,000 tractor operators worked the summer fallow with 4,000 cultivators; cultivation exceeded 1952 by 78,000 hectares, and it was of a higher quality.(7)

A new variety of winter wheat, Odesskaya-16, developed by the All-Union Selection and Genetic Institute imeni T. D. Lysenko, is replacing Odesskaya-12.

The new variety withstands winter better and tolerates severe weather variations to a greater degree than Odesskaya-12. It is of great importance in the southern regions of the republic because it also produces an early harvest with a yield of up to 40 quintals per hectare.

About one million hectares have been sown to the new variety of winter wheat in Odesskaya, Nikolayevskaya, Izmail'skaya, and Kirovogradskaya oblasts; this will result in an additional yield of 2-3 million quintals by virtue of replacing the less productive variety.

Kolkhozes of the republic are using the checkrow method of planting potatoes on about 30 percent of the entire area devoted to potatoes.(4)

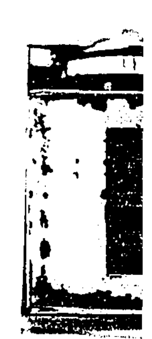
MTS of L'vovskaya Oblast, by assisting kolkhozes with cultivating the soil and planting potatoes, enabled kolkhozes to plant an additional 7,000 hectares of potatoes. Mineral and local fertilizers were used and the checkrow method of planting was carried out on a third of the area devoted to potatoes.(8)

Kolkhozes of the republic fulfilled the state plan for planting potatoes. The area planted to potatoes was increased by 115,000 hectares over 1952.(9)

The volume of mechanized agricultural work in Khersonskaya Oblast has increased sharply, with the mechanization of basic agricultural tasks reaching 99.5 percent.

After the amalgamation of 897 small kolkhozes into 363 large kolkhozes, the arable land of a vast majority of kolkhozes in the oblast averages 5,000 hectares.(10)

Mechanized threshing floors are being put in order by kolkhozes and MTS of Khersonskaya Oblast. The distribution of mechanized threshing floors is such that almost every kolkhoz will have two of them, with no less than 700 for the oblast.(3)



RSFSR

In spite of adverse weather conditions, grain growers of Chuvaskskaya ASSR are better organized and are carrying out field work more effectively than in 1952. Sowing of spiked grain crops and legumes has been completed in the republic; 5,500 hectares more wheat was sown than called for by the state plan. The plan for sowing perennial grasses was considerably exceeded and a great deal more hemp was sown and potatoes planted than in 1952.(3)

Kolkhozes of Tambovskaya Oblast fulfilled the state plan for sowing spring crops 5 days earlier than in 1952. The plan for sowing wheat was exceeded by 20.9 percent.(9)

Grain growers of Altayskiy Kray greatly exceeded the plan for sowing ensilage crops and for perennial grasses without a cover crop. Four times as much annual grass was sown as in 1952.

MTS of Velikolukskaya Oblast are due to harvest three times as much grass as in 1952. Meadow improvement will be carried out on an area of 200,000 hectares in 1953.(11)

Kolkhozes of Altayskiy Kray fulfilled the plan for sowing spring wheat. Hard wheat was sown on an area considerably greater than in 1952, and a greater use was made of the close-row and crisscross methods of sowing.

Plans for sowing the following were fulfilled or exceeded: sugar beets, sunflowers, seed flax, mushrooms, ensilage crops, and perennial grasses without a cover crop.(12)

Kolkhozes of Ryazanskaya Oblast completed sowing early grain crops in a shorter time than in 1952 and exceeded the plan for sowing wheat by 30,000 hectares.(13)

Sovkhozes of Kurganskaya Oblast completed sowing wheat 5 days earlier than the completion date in 1952. The crop was sown on summer and winter fallow by the crisscross and close-row methods.

By 22 May, kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Novosibirskaya Oblast had completed sowing spring wheat. The close-row and crisscross methods of sowing were widely used, and a great deal of granulated fertilizer was applied.(8)

Having completed sowing spiked grain crops, kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Ul'yanovskaya Oblast are now planting potatoes and vegetables. In 1953, the area planted to potatoes will be 6,000 hectares greater than in 1952.(6)

Sowing has been completed by kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Tatarskaya ASSR; 68,000 hectares more wheat were sown than in 1952. The plans for sowing sunflowers, annual grasses, and ensilage crops were also exceeded.(9)

By 25 May, kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Kurganskaya Oblast had fulfilled the plan for sowing spring wheat 105.4 percent. The plans for sowi[illegible] oil-bearing crops were also exceeded.(6)

Warm weather and sunny days in Bryanskaya Oblast have permitted kolkhozes in the southern regions to sow hemp; the area sown to hemp is to be increased by 1,500 hectares over 1952. Sowing will be carried out by tractor-drawn seeders.(7)



By 26 May, the sowing of flax was completed in Omskaya Oblast 10 days earlier than in 1952. In 11 northern rayons where fiber flax is cultivated, several thousand hectares more were devoted to it in 1953. Flax growers of the oblast have pledged to obtain 4 quintals of seed and 4.5 quintals of fiber per hectare of flax.(14)

The sowing of seed legumes has been completed by kolkhozes of Mordovskaya Oblast, with 50,000 hectares sown for the first time by the crisscross and close-row methods. Buckwheat and hemp are now being sown; potatoes, makhorka, and vegetables are being planted.(13)

The cultivation of potatoes occupies 10-12 percent of the entire sown area in many kolkhozes of Kalininskaya Oblast. Kolkhozes use manpower to the extent of 60-70 man-days and more per hectare of land planted to potatoes; this is reason enough for a rapid and more complete mechanization of potato cultivation.

MTS, however, are inadaquately mechanizing the cultivation of potatoes; in 1952, 2,170 hectares of potatoes were planted by machine, whereas the plan called for planting 5,200 hectares. The 1953 plan calls for mechanized planting of 12,000 hectares of potatoes; by 10 May, MTS of the oblast had not yet started to plant, and by 20 May, a total of only 584 hectares had been planted. (10)

Widespread harvesting of green tea leaves is being carried out by tea-growing kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Krasnodarskiy Kray.

A new tea factory in which all production processes are mechanized has been erected in Adlerskiy Rayon; the Dagomys and Adler factories have on hand 40 tons of raw material over the amount supplied for processing in 1952. (11)

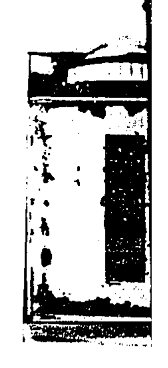
By 22 May, the Ryazan' Agricultural Machine Building Plant had delivered 100 SKG-4 potato-planters to Leningradskaya Oblast for the checkrow planting of potatoes.

The additional potato-planting machines will permit the use of the checkrow method of planting throughout the entire area in the oblast where potatoes are under cultivation, and will boost yields 20-25 percent.(8)

MTS of Bashkirskaya ASSR are making poor progress in preparation for harvesting. By 15 May, the plan for combine repair had been realized only 12 percent; not a single combine had been repaired by 53 MTS of the republic, while the remaining MTS had each repaired from one to three combines.(12)

Extensive construction of rural electrification projects is under way in the Baykal region. Eleven electric power stations have been erected in the last 2 years in Irkutskaya Oblast; the consumption of electric power by kolkhozes has tripled.(15)

In 1953, kolkhozes of certain oblasts in the nonchernozem zone of the republic applied less manure to their fields than in 1952: thus, 1,271,000 metric tons of manure had been applied to fields in Gor'kovskaya Oblast by 10 May 1952, while in 1953 only 844,000 metric tons were applied. Figures for other oblasts for 1952 and 1953 respectively are: Kalininskaya Oblast, 1,456,000 and 835,000 metric tons; and Ryazanskaya Oblast, 1,487,000 and 072,000 metric tons.(8)



Kazakh SSR

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the republic fulfilled the plan for sowing spring wheat in a shorter time than in 1952. Hundreds of thousands of hectares were sown by the crisscross and close-row methods.

A greater proportion of hard wheat was sown; kolkhozes sowed 30 percent more hard wheat than in 1952.(13)

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Karagandinskaya Oblast completed sowing spiked grain crops considerably earlier than in 1952. All regions of the oblast fulfilled or exceeded the plan for sowing spring wheat and are now sowing fodder crops and planting potatoes and vegetables.(16)

Sovkhozes of the republic fulfilled the plan for sowing spring crops; large areas were sown by the close-row and crisscross methods. Wheat, annual grasses, and root fodder crops were sown above plan and twice as much Sudan grass was sown as in 1952.(4)

Scores of rural electric-power stations have been constructed in Dzhambulskaya Oblast since the war. By 27 May, the Georgiyevskaya Interkolkhoz Hydroelectric Station in Kurdayskiy Rayon, the largest in the republic, had been put into operation.

This station conveys electricity to threshing floors where hundreds of grain-cleaning machines are activated; 89 animal husbandry farms have mechanized the feeding and watering of cows and the preparation of fodder, with current supplied by the station. Electric shearing of sheep has also been put into practice on a wide scale.

An additional 34 kolkhozes will be electrified by the end of 1953.(3)

Mechanization specialists of the republic are scheduled to harvest with combines grain crops, oleaginous crops, and grass seeds in amounts considerably greater than in 1952.

Hundreds of trailer and self-propelled machines have been added to the combine park. More than 1,400 combine operators were graduated from 40 mechanized agricultural schools of the republic. By the time grain harvesting begins, these schcols will graduate an additional 3,500 combine operators.(1)

Uzbek SSR

Kolkhozes of Ferganskaya Oblast are engaged in constructing gas-operated cotton-dryers; 200 dryers will be completed by the beginning of the harvest season.(11)

Kirgiz SSR

Valley kolkhozes of the republic started hay mowing 10 days earlier than in 1952. By 22 May, kolkhozes of the republic had harvested 1.5 times more grasses than by the same date in 1952.(14)



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4. Ibid., 29 May 53
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